



Choking Hazards For Children

SafeTips from the Naval Safety Center

Quick and easy summaries to find out about something new you're doing or as a refresher for something you haven't done in a while. They're a great training tool to pass around at meetings, through e-mail, or post on bulletin boards.

- ♥ Parents and caregivers should check their homes for items that may pose a choking hazard to young children.
- ♥ Each year, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission gets about 15 reports of children under age 3 who have choked to death. Some of these deaths involve items that are known hazards: small toys, parts of toys that detach on purpose or by accident, balloons, balls and marbles. Choking has long been the leading cause of toy-related deaths to young children.
- ♥ In addition to these well-known hazards, other tragic deaths each year result from hidden hazards: small objects not intended for use by children that accidentally end up in their hands and mouths.
- ♥ As a result, you must look out for small parts that break off of toys, or small items that belong to their older siblings. Remember that everyday household items can also pose choking hazards.
- ♥ Pay attention to the age-appropriate labeling on toys and products for older children that contain small parts. Toys designed for children 3 and older should be kept away from young children.
- ♥ Balloons, a leading cause of toy-related deaths, are often a favorite of young children. However, uninflated balloons and fragments from popped balloons can choke and kill a small child.
- ♥ Keep small objects like small toys and parts of toys, marbles, balloons, small balls and coins off the floor and out of reach of children.
- ♥ Toys designed for older children should be kept out of the hands of little ones.
- ♥ Follow labels that give age recommendations; these age recommendations are based on safety concerns.
- ♥ Teach older children to help keep their toys away from younger siblings.
- ♥ Check the eyes and noses of stuffed animals to ensure they are properly secured.



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